



Illegal Logging at Phnom Aral Protected Area, Kompong Speu Province, Cambodia.

## BACKGROUND

Cambodia faces many challenges resulting from decades of civil war and turmoil. Greed combined with poor governance and land-grabbing, severe poverty, and weak infrastructure is translating into an out-of-control and spiraling extraction and destruction of Cambodia's forests and biodiversity.

To address this grave and extremely challenging situation, USAID works with our partners to protect and manage Cambodia's natural resources and environment, along with promoting good governance to provide responsible natural resource management throughout the country with particular emphasis on activities in Koh Kong, Kampong Speu, Pursat, Monduliri, Ratanakiri, Battambang, Siem Reap and several other provinces.

Some of the key focus areas involve:

**Community Resources Management-**For improvement of forestry, wildlife and fisheries management through the efforts of community resource management groups and promotion of land rights and protection of natural resources.

**Alternative Livelihoods Development-** Reduces demand on natural resources and promotes opportunity for economic growth in the rural/agribusiness sector.

**Awareness and Law Enforcement-**Illegal activities are identified, reported and mitigated. Consolidates the rule of forest/biodiversity law through improved legal and regulatory frameworks that includes enforcement and ranger training.

Cambodia's forests are significant as remnants of larger ecosystems, biodiversity corridors, and species populations that no longer exist more widely in the region. In addition to their global value, forests are critical for providing communities with food, medicine, fuelwood, non-timber forest products, and cash income. Forests also have very important cultural and spiritual values.

## CURRENT & FORMER PARTNERS

**Community Forestry International (CFI):** This continuing program supports communities and local sub-grantees in managing local community forest resources through the Community Forestry Alliance of Cambodia (CFAC).

**WildAid:** WildAid's extended and expanded programs promote community agriculture development and fighting of illegal trafficking of forest and wildlife products.

**Global Witness Trust (GWT):** The program, which concluded in September 2005, monitored and reported on illegal logging, raised awareness of the depth and breadth of the situation, and advocated for conservation of protected forest areas.

## RESULTS TO DATE

USAID-funded programs have achieved a number of important results in:

- Alternative livelihood opportunities developed for over 200 families formerly dependent upon destructive and unsustainable utilization of the forest to survive. The project so far has prevented burning of 2 ha of forest /year per family (226 ha in 2003-2004) and has replanted over 25 hectares of burned forest.
- Two ranger stations were reorganized with a total of four small patrol units, and have expanded into Botum Sakor peninsula with 2 sub-stations. Each patrol unit in the Forestry Administration (FA) areas is composed of 1 FA officer, with authority to enforce the forestry and wildlife laws of Cambodia, and 5 rangers. In the Ministry of Environment (MOE) areas, patrol units are composed one ranger team leader and 5 Rangers.
- 90% of Phnom Penh's restaurants have stopped serving wildlife, and over 20,000 animals have been rescued, with many being rehabilitated in the Phnom Tmao Animal Rescue Center, located in the outskirts of Phnom Penh on National Road 3.
- Community Forestry Training through more than 23 sub-grants by the Community Forestry Alliance for Cambodia in 83 villages for over 9,000 families.
- CFAC Published and distributed 5,000 copies of the Khmer Language version of "Community Forestry in Cambodia Questions and Answers".